



APPLN. NO. 10/633,418
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

**PATENT
NON-FINAL**

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A battery comprising an electrode unit comprising a negative electrode and positive electrode spirally wound around an axis of the electrode unit as an electricity generating element housed in a battery can, and a pair of negative and positive electrode terminal assemblies for taking the electricity out of the battery, wherein one of said negative and positive electrode terminal assemblies is secured to a lid of the battery, a current collector plate is connected to an edge of an electrode at one end of the electrode unit to electrically connect the electrode unit to said one of said negative and positive electrode terminal assemblies, and one or more than one connecting piece, which is protrusively formed on a surface of the current collector plate and extends in the direction of the axis of the electrode unit on a side of said current collector plate not connected to said edge of an electrode, is welded to a base portion of said one of said negative and positive electrode terminal assemblies to form a welded surface between said one or more than one connecting piece and said base portion extending in the direction of the axis of the electrode unit.

2. (currently amended) The battery according to claim 1, wherein a base portion of said one of said negative and positive electrode terminal assemblies comprises a flange portion and said flange portion is connected to an inner circumferential wall or outer circumferential wall of said one or more than one connecting piece and is welded to said one or more than one connecting piece by laser beam welding.

3. (currently amended) The battery according to claim 2, wherein an outer circumferential wall of said one or more than one connecting piece and the inner circumferential wall of the flange portion are connected to form a connection, and a laser beam is irradiated onto said connection from outside the flange portion to weld said current collector plate to said [[said]] one of said negative and positive electrode terminal assemblies.

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The battery according to claim 3, wherein said one of said negative and positive electrode assemblies is the negative terminal assembly and comprises a terminal connector which penetrates from inside of the battery to outside of

~~the battery~~, at least one insulator which electrically insulates the lid of the battery from the terminal connector, and rivet means connecting the terminal connector and said at least one insulator to the lid.